

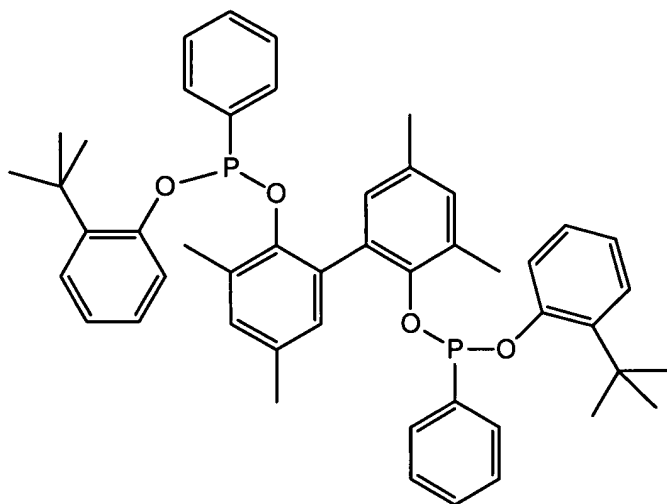
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, immediately following the title, please add the following new section:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application is a National Stage application of PCT/EP2004/012179, filed October 28, 2004, which claims priority from German Pat. Appl. No. 10351000.1, filed October 30, 2003.--

Please delete structural formula 1 on page 15, beginning at line 10 and replace with the following structural formula



Page 16, paragraph 1, should read:

Example 1:

In a 500 mil flask with stirrer, 18.6 g (85 mmol) of ~~NiBr₂~~ NiBr₂ were suspended under argon in 13 g of 3-pentenitrile, 100 g of chelate solution (86 mmol of ligand) were added and the mixture was stirred at 80°C for 10 min. After cooling to 50°C, 8 g of Zn powder (122 mmol, 14 eq.) were added and the mixture was stirred at 50°C for 3 h. An Ni(0) value of 1.2% (33% conversion) was measured.